

REMARKS

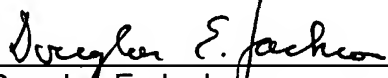
By this Amendment, the claims have been rewritten to reduce the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in better conformance with US practice.

Further and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STITES & HARBISON, PLLC

Date: 1/11/05



Douglas E. Jackson
Registration No. 28518

1199 North Fairfax Street, Suite 900 - Alexandria, Virginia 22314 - (703) 739-4900